

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 1099**

LCO No. 5826

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMISSION
TO DEVELOP A VISION AND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE
CONNECTICUT EDUCATION SYSTEM.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 Planning Commission for Education to develop and ensure the
3 implementation of a strategic master plan for public education in
4 Connecticut.

5 (1) The commission shall consist of the following voting members:
6 (A) Four members appointed by the speaker of the House of
7 Representatives, one of whom shall be a current or former
8 superintendent of schools for a rural school district, one of whom shall
9 be a certified teacher who is currently employed as a teacher in a
10 public school or has retired from teaching in a public school not less
11 than one year prior to appointment, one of whom shall be a person
12 with knowledge and experience with students with special education
13 needs and one of whom shall be a person with knowledge and
14 experience in systems building; (B) four members appointed by the
15 president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be a current or
16 former superintendent of schools for an urban school district in which
17 a charter school and interdistrict magnet school are located, one of

18 whom shall be a certified teacher who is currently employed as a
19 teacher in a public school or has retired from teaching in a public
20 school not less than one year prior to appointment, one of whom shall
21 be a person with knowledge and experience regarding early childhood
22 education and one of whom shall be a person with knowledge and
23 experience in civil rights relating to equity, access and the quality of
24 education; (C) two members appointed by the majority leader of the
25 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a current or former
26 superintendent of schools for a regional school district and one of
27 whom shall be a student who is enrolled in a public high school in the
28 state; (D) two members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate,
29 one of whom shall be a current or former superintendent of schools for
30 a suburban school district and one of whom shall be a parent or
31 guardian of a student who is enrolled in a public school in the state; (E)
32 two members appointed by the minority leader of the House of
33 Representatives, one of whom shall be a representative of a state-wide
34 business organization and one of whom shall be a scholar that has
35 experience and expertise in the field of education from
36 prekindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive; (F) two members
37 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall be
38 an entrepreneur and one of whom shall be a scholar that has
39 experience and expertise in the field of higher education; (G) nine
40 members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a certified
41 teacher who is currently employed as a teacher in a public school or
42 has retired from teaching in a public school not less than one year prior
43 to appointment, one of whom shall be a parent or guardian of a
44 student who is enrolled in a public school in the state, one of whom
45 shall be a student who is enrolled in a public high school in the state,
46 one of whom shall be a person with knowledge and experience in
47 systems building, one of whom shall be an entrepreneur, one of whom
48 shall be a person with knowledge and experience in civil rights
49 relating to equity, access and the quality of education, one of whom
50 shall be a person that has experience in the field of arts and culture,
51 one of whom shall be a scholar that has experience and expertise in the
52 field of psychology and one of whom shall be a scholar that has

53 experience and expertise in the field of sociology; (H) the
54 Commissioner of Education; and (I) the Commissioner of Early
55 Childhood. The commission membership shall reflect the state's
56 geographic, racial and ethnic diversity.

57 (2) The following persons shall serve as ex-officio nonvoting
58 members on the commission: (A) the Secretary of the Office of Policy
59 and Management, or the secretary's designee; (B) one representative
60 from each of the following associations, designated by the association,
61 the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, the Connecticut
62 Association of Public School Superintendents, the Connecticut
63 Federation of School Administrators, the Connecticut Education
64 Association and the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut; (C)
65 the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee
66 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
67 education; (D) the chairpersons of the achievement gap task force
68 established pursuant to section 10-16mm of the general statutes; and
69 (E) the executive director of the Commission on Children, or the
70 executive director's designee.

71 (3) The commission shall elect cochairpersons at its first meeting.
72 Any vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority. The term of
73 each appointed member of the commission shall be three years from
74 the date of appointment. The commission members shall serve without
75 compensation except for necessary expenses incurred in the
76 performance of their duties. The commission may seek the advice and
77 participation of any person, organization or state or federal agency it
78 deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The
79 commission may, within available appropriations, retain consultants to
80 assist in carrying out its duties. The commission may receive funds
81 from any public or private sources to carry out its activities.

82 (b) The commission shall articulate a clear vision and mission for
83 developing a sustainable, equitable and high-quality public education
84 system that coordinates the components of education reform, clarifies
85 how such components of education reform work together and

86 provides every child with access to an educational experience that
87 meets such child's needs. The commission shall develop and ensure
88 the implementation of a strategic master plan to carry out such vision
89 and mission.

90 (1) In developing the strategic master plan, the commission shall
91 address the following issues: (A) How to better organize the state
92 public education system to streamline various and disparate mandates,
93 initiatives and reforms that may compete with the articulated vision
94 and mission; (B) the manner in which the public education system
95 utilizes data and supports to inform and improve the provision of
96 education in the state; (C) the extent to which the testing and
97 accountability system assesses the most worthy outcomes of public
98 education; and (D) identifying and analyzing the most significant
99 factors that effect and support the most worthy outcomes of public
100 education for all students, including, but not limited to, poverty,
101 socioeconomic and racial isolation, language barriers and parental
102 engagement in a student's education.

103 (2) In addressing the issues described in subdivision (1) of this
104 subsection, the commission shall consider: (A) What are the most
105 worthy outcomes of public education and what means can be taken to
106 achieve such outcomes; (B) the extent to which the public education
107 system prepares students to meet the challenges of work, citizenship
108 and life upon graduation; (C) strategies to develop state-wide
109 education leadership goals and to enhance education leadership in
110 conformance with such goals; (D) ways to ensure effective
111 communication and partnership between school districts and the
112 families of children who attend public school in such school district,
113 with particular focus on diversity; (E) ways to share best practices
114 within the public education system, including, but not limited to,
115 learning across methodologies, models and structures of educational
116 excellence; (F) what innovations are necessary to excel in both
117 competitiveness and character; (G) the extent to which the public
118 education system empowers students and educators to excel, innovate
119 and build on strengths; and (H) best practices that ensure high quality

120 instruction and promote continuous systemic improvement.

121 (3) The commission shall also examine and recommend changes to
122 funding policies, practices and accountability in order to (A) align such
123 funding policies, practices and accountability with the strategic master
124 plan, (B) ensure that all school districts receive equitable funding from
125 the state, (C) ensure an appropriate, sustained investment in the
126 implementation of the strategic master plan, and (D) determine and
127 recommend measures to promote the adoption of ways in which
128 resources can be most effectively utilized.

129 (c) (1) Not later than February 15, 2016, the commission shall submit
130 a preliminary report on the development of the strategic master plan
131 together with any recommendations for appropriate legislation and
132 funding to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the
133 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
134 and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
135 of the general statutes.

136 (2) Not later than December 31, 2016, the commission shall submit
137 the strategic master plan, including specific goals and benchmarks for
138 implementation, together with any recommendations for appropriate
139 legislation and funding to the Governor and the joint standing
140 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
141 relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with the
142 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

143 (d) Not later than January 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, the
144 commission shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint
145 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
146 matters relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with
147 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the implementation of the
148 strategic master plan and progress made toward achieving the goals
149 specified in the plan. The commission may periodically suggest
150 changes to the goals as necessary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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